



CLAIMS

1. A method for processing database query operations, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
a database server receiving a database query that:
 references data in a relational structure as if the data was stored in a multi-dimensional array, and
 specifies an operation involving one or more cells of said multi-dimensional array; and
in response to receiving said database query, the database server executing the database query by performing steps that include:
 retrieving the data from said relational structure, and
 performing said operation specified in said database query.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the step of receiving a database query comprises the step of receiving a database query that specifies a multi-dimensional array operation.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the data comprises the step of retrieving the data from one or more relational database tables.
4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said data in a non-relational structure; and
wherein the step of performing said operation comprises the step of performing said operation in reference to said data stored in said non-relational structure.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of performing said operation comprises the step of repeatedly performing a series of manipulations on said data until a particular criteria is satisfied.

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6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving said data from said relational structure comprises the step of retrieving said data from a relational database.
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of retrieving said data from said relational database comprises the step of retrieving said data from one or more tables within said a relational database.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of performing said operation specified in said database query comprises the steps of symbolically addressing said data as an n-dimensional array information.
9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of, after performing the step of performing the operation specified in the database query, storing in a second relational structure, result information based on performance of said operation.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of performing said operation specified in said database query comprises the step of repeatedly performing a series of manipulations on said data until a particular criteria is satisfied.
11. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for performing a database operation, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of the method of one of Claims 1 - 10.